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Constitution of the Washington Student Association

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Preamble

We, the students of public colleges and universities of the State of Washington, in order to initiate and coordinate student representation in venues of public policy and reflect student interests, needs, and welfare within the higher education community at large, do hereby affirm and establish this constitution.

Article I: Name

The name of this non-profit organization shall be the “Washington Student Association” also known as the “WSA”. The governing body of the WSA shall be the General Assembly, the Board of Directors, and the legislative liaisons. The WSA shall be registered as a 501(c)(4) organization with the Washington Secretary of State.

Article II: Purpose

The Washington Student Association serves as the official nonpartisan body of representation for all students attending Washington State's public institutions of higher education. The WSA works with students, representatives, and higher education partners from across the state to advocate for a more affordable, accessible, and equitable system of higher education. Our association brings together legislative advocacy in Olympia and on-campus organizing to empower and engage students.

Article III: Powers Of The General Assembly

The Washington Student Association General Assembly shall have and exercise the powers and duties specifically included:

- a. To draft and approve a legislative agenda;
- b. To draft and approve an annual budget;
- c. To elect the executive officers;
- d. To discuss and provide input to the Board of Directors.

Convening and voting at the General Assembly shall be determined by the [bylaws of the association](#). Executive Officers shall be elected during the spring General Assembly meeting. Their terms shall be one year long from the day they are appointed to the next election cycle at General Assembly.

Article IV: Powers of the Board Of Directors

The Washington Student Association Board of Directors shall have and exercise these general powers and duties:

- a. Serve as official body of representation for students attending all member associations in State of Washington;
- b. To execute and amend the bylaws of the organization;
- c. Hire, review, and terminate employees of the association;
- d. To amend the annual budget and authorize new expenditures;
- e. To authorize entry into contractual or financial relationships;
- f. To approve an annual financial statement and periodic financial reports;
- g. To conduct regular meetings of the Washington Student Association Board of Directors;
- h. To amend, adapt, and refine the WSA legislative agenda;
- i. *Create a calendar at Board Retreat for future meetings of the WSA board for the academic year.*

Article V: Powers of Legislative Liaisons

Member associations can and are highly encouraged to appoint at least one student legislative liaisons to participate in the WSA Legislative Liaison Program (LLP) hosted in Olympia during legislative session. Legislative liaisons shall be the campus representative in Olympia and to state legislators for the WSA, in the absence of a designated board member.

Legislative liaison shall have the power to:

- a. *Represent and advocate on behalf of their respective campus;*
- b. *Represent and executive the WSA legislative agenda;*
- c. *Coordinate with the Board of Directors and General Assembly on the strategization of the legislative agenda;*
- d. *Maintain an active presence in Olympia during legislative session;*
- e. *Respond to bills, proclamations, and resolutions introduced by members of the Washington State Legislature, executive offices, and state agencies.*

Article VI: Executive Committee

The Washington Student Association General Assembly shall elect, from the eligible membership campuses of the organization: President, Vice President of Legislative Affairs, Vice President of

Finance, Vice President of Communications, Vice President of Federal Affairs, Vice President of Outreach, and a Vice President of Diversity. This too shall be the line of succession in case of any absence or vacancy of the President of the association. *Any student enrolled at our membership campuses is eligible to run for an executive position.*

In the event that an executive position is vacant or an executive is unable to fulfill the requirements of their position for any reason, the Board of Directors may appoint an interim executive for that position by a majority vote of quorum. Candidates must be a current student of a member association to be eligible for appointment. If more than two candidates are interested in the appointment, a runoff of the top candidates may be required if an initial majority is not achieved. The candidate appointed by the Board of Directors shall remain an interim appointment until the next General Assembly meeting.

Article VII: WSA Membership

Section 1. Campus Associations

All recognized student government associations of colleges and universities in the State of Washington and their partner satellite campuses may seek and secure institutional recognition and association membership status within the Washington Student Association. Campus Student Body President, Legislative Liaisons, Directors of Legislative Affairs, or campus proxies are designated voters on the WSA Board of Directors.

Association membership may be achieved by attending monthly Board of Director meetings, payment of the required dues, and a commitment to uphold and abide by this Constitution and the Washington Student Association bylaws.

Section 2. Contracts

The Washington Student Association or its legal agent shall negotiate contractual agreements or provide invoices upon institutional requests. Contractual agreements shall be similar to those already in place with membership institutions. Unless otherwise noted in the contractual agreements between member institutions, the time and collection of fees shall be in December and April of the same academic year.

The terms and conditions in such a contract shall contain: a mechanism for establishing and collecting student contributions, which will be remitted to the Washington Student Association; the timing of contribution collection and remittance; a mechanism to amend the contract; the duration of the contract; and, a mechanism for reporting to the institution the financial condition of the Washington Student Association on an annual basis.

Association membership may be maintained by submitting all dues payments on time and continued adherence to this Constitution and the Washington Student Association bylaws.

Association membership may be terminated at anytime, in accordance with the specification in the contract or if the institution no longer fulfilled the requirements to maintain membership.

Each association is responsible for ensuring that dues payments are remitted in such time that their membership will not be terminated.

Section 3. Membership Dues

All member campuses shall pay at least minimum dues in order to be considered in good standing with the association. Minimum dues are set at \$1.05 per full time enrolled (FTE) student. FTE will be determined by numbers given by the Washington Office of Fiscal Management. Enrollment will be counted as an average FTE enrollment for fall, winter, and spring quarters for quarter campus and fall and spring semesters for semester campus schools. *Campuses shall be capped at \$15,000 per year. Campuses are able to pay more than the minimum into the association.*

Section 4. Board of Directors Membership

The Washington Student Association Board of Directors shall be composed of one vote per member association. The student association President or their designee shall hold the vote.

SECTION 5. General Assembly Membership

Voting membership at the Washington Student Association General Assembly shall be one vote per 2500 FTEs as assigned in the biennial budget adopted by the Legislature and signed by the Governor of the State of Washington. Voting members shall be designated by their student association. *Campuses are capped 15,000 students counted for their total FTE enrollment.*

Article VIII: Operating Procedures

The General Assembly shall convene at least two times during the academic year. The Board of Directors shall have at least eight meetings during the academic year. Meetings of the Washington Student Association State Board shall be open to the public. The Board of Directors, upon a two-thirds vote, may go into executive session for reasons outlined in the bylaws.

Meeting agendas, minutes, and agenda attachments must be made available to the public. Quorum for the Board of Directors shall be half of all voting members, plus one, present at the Board of Directors meeting. Campuses may designate a proxy as set through the bylaws. *Campuses may call into a conference line or video conference into Board of Director and General Assembly meetings.*

Article IX: Amendments

Amendments to this Constitution require a three-fourths vote of the seated membership of the Washington Student Association General Assembly and the Board of Directors.

The Washington Student Association Board of Directors shall adopt and amend bylaws upon a two-thirds vote of its seated membership.

In the case that the WSA bylaws contradict the Constitution, the Constitution will take precedence over the bylaws.

Article X: Dissolution

Upon the winding up and dissolution of this Association, after paying or adequately providing for the payment of the debts, obligations, and liabilities of the Association, the remaining assets of this Association shall be distributed to a nonprofit fund, foundation, or corporation established to serve the needs and interests of the student governments at member campuses in the Washington Student Association. Only organizations who have a tax exempt status of a 501(c)(3) or 501(c)(4) may be eligible to receive remaining funds after the dissolution of the association.